
FLEET-STREET, DEC. 1, 1789.

SHAKSPEARE.

WHILE an exuberance of elegant and expensive ornament, derived from fancy, is preparing for the Works of Shakspeare, it may appear extraordinary that so little attention has hitherto been paid to the countenances of his real characters, and the scenery of the different places in which their chief exploits were performed.

To supply this deficiency, *E. Harding*, No. 132, Fleet-street, proposes to publish, by subscription, an assemblage of genuine Heads and Views, appropriated to the whole suite of our Author's historical dramas.

Of all such relative and original pictures of royal, noble, and eminent persons, as are accessible in any part of England, &c. the likenesses will be preserved with minute and studied accuracy, by SILVESTER HARDING. — It is hoped, on an occasion like this, that Great Families will not withhold the portraits of their ancestors, who have been immortalized by Shakspeare.

As often as no resources for this undertaking can be derived from paintings hitherto unengraved, or engraved without exactness, prints by masters of the highest authority will be followed.

In respect to such plays of our Author as are founded on Roman stories, the most authentic representations of their principal heroes will be delineated from coins and gems, or from copies of them in books of unquestionable fidelity.

To these will be added, portraits of Editors of Shakspeare; and of Actors, who are known to have personated his chief characters while he himself was on the stage.

The topographical part of the design is meant, in general, to consist of Castles, Views, &c. &c. drawn on their respective spots, for the immediate use of this publication. Such, however, of the places of action as cannot be characteristically supplied from present surveys, will be copied from old engravings in the collections of our first Antiquaries, many of whom have already promised their assistance to an undertaking which cannot fail to reflect honour on themselves, as well as on the Poet to whose scenes their illustrations will be applied.

CONDITIONS.

C O N D I T I O N S.

THAT this Work shall, if possible, be comprized in Twenty Numbers: but as some portraits, of which the Publisher has no present notice, may occur, he cannot, at once, ascertain the precise extent of his undertaking.

That each Number shall exhibit Four Plates; viz. Two Portraits and Two Views, or Three Portraits and One View. This part of the Design must be left to chance, or (in other words) to the punctuality and convenience of the Artists employed.

The Plates to be of a size fit to bind up with any octavo edition of Shakspeare's Plays. Some sets will be printed off on a larger paper, and adapted to any impressions in quarto.

That the price, to Subscribers, will be Five Shillings per Number; to non-Subscribers, Six Shillings. The quarto size, to Subscribers, Six Shillings, to non-Subscribers, Seven.

No person can be considered as a Subscriber, who does not enter his name in the Publisher's book, paying down, at the same time, one half of his subscription.

The Publisher chooses to be silent concerning the finished manner in which his Plates are to be executed. His first Number, which boasts the names of Mr. Bartolozzi and Mr. W. N. Gardiner, will prove the most successful advocate in favour of the Work now advertised.

No proofs of these engravings will be offered to sale; and as the Numbers will be delivered according to the dates of subscription, the earliest Subscribers will be served with the earliest impressions.

The First Number will be published on the 1st day of February, 1790; and a succeeding Number on the 1st of every Month, till the whole Design is completed.

The

The beginning Number will consist of the following PLATES:

- I. KING RICHARD III.—from Vertue's engraving among his Heads and Monuments, &c.
- II. LADY ELIZABETH GRAY, Queen to Edward IV.—from an original Painting in the Gallery of Queen's College, Cambridge.
- III. JANE SHORE—from an original Painting in the Lodge at King's College, Cambridge.
- IV. VIEW OF KING RICHARD the THIRD'S MANSION in Crosby Square, Bishopsgate Street;—accurately delineated on the spot, in the course of last autumn.

Second Number.

- I. KING HENRY VI.—from a painted glass window in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge.
- II. ELIZABETH OF YORK (Queen to Henry VII.)—from an original Painting in the possession of Dr. Farmer, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.
- III. RICHARD BURBADGE, the original performer of King Richard III.—from a genuine Picture of him in the gallery at Dulwich College.
- IV. BAYNARD'S CASTLE, one of the places where King Richard III. kept his Court.

As no diligence and expence in collecting and engraving subjects for this undertaking shall be spared, the Publisher hopes it will be considered as a valuable acquisition to the admirers of Shakspeare.

SUBSCRIPTIONS taken in at the PROPRIETOR'S, No. 132, Fleet-street; by Messrs. EDWARDS and SON, Pall-mall; and by Mr. ROBSON, Rond-street.

<i>Received,</i> <i>for the First Number</i>	<i>the Sum of</i> <i>of Portraits and Views illustrative</i>
<i>of Shakspeare, which I promise to deliver according to the above Proposals.</i>	

